

Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-05 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-10 AID-05

IGA-01 TRSE-00 /073 W

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O R 240902Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4050

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO JCS WASHDC

DA WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULY

S E C R E T SEOUL 9047

JOINT EMBASSY/COMUSK MESSAGE

DA WASHDC FOR DALO-IL; CSAF WASHDC FOR LGF; CNO WASHDC FOR OP63;
CINCPAC FOR J4

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, MASS, KS

SUBJECT: ROK FORCES IMPROVEMENT PLAN (FIP)

REF: (A) SEOUL 8760 (DTG 140149Z NOV 75)

(B) SEOUL 8802 (DTG 140822Z NOV 75)

(C) SEOUL 8814 (DTG 140907Z NOV 75)

1. REFERENCED MESSAGES OUTLINE OUR ANALYSIS RE CAPABILITY OF
THE ROK TO ACHIEVE THEIR PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR FORCE IMPROVEMENT
PLAN. SUBSEQUENT STANDING ACTION OFFICER COMMITTEE MEETINGS,
AS WELL AS DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CHIEF, JUSMAG-K AND LT. GEN LEW,
BYUNG HION, DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF, JCS, HAVE RESULTED IN

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ACCOMMODATIONS BY THE ROK TOWARD THE U.S. POSITION. ROKG HAS

NOW AGREED TO AN OVERALL REDUCTION OF NEW INVESTMENT TARGET FIGURE FROM PREVIOUS \$4.1 BILLION TO \$3.7 BILLION.

2. MAJOR AGREEMENTS REACHED TO DATE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) PRI 13: ROK HAS INDICATED THEY WILL CONVERT ALL THREE OF THEIR BASIC HAWK BATTALIONS TO IMPROVED HAWK INSTEAD OF PREVIOUSLY PLANNED CONVERSION OF ONLY ONE BATTALION.

(B) PRI 114: REDUCED REQUIREMENTS FOR REPLACEMENT OF OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT BY APPROXIMATELY \$223.1 MILLION.

(C) PRI 118: DELETION OF THIS PROJECT WHICH PROVIDES EQUIPMENT FOR A FOURTH BATTALION IN EACH REGIMENT OF THE 17 ROKA INFANTRY, 4 READY RESERVE, AND 6 REAR AREA SECURITY DIVISIONS. IN LIEU OF THIS PROJECT, THE ROK WILL INITIATE A NEW PROJECT TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT SHORTAGES NOW EXISTING IN THEIR ONE MARINE AND EIGHTEEN ARMY DIVISIONS.

(D) PRI 124: DELETION OF THIS PROJECT WHICH EQUIPS AND PROVIDES FACILITIES FOR 748 HOMELAND DEFENSE RESERVE FORCE COMPANIES. ESTIMATED PROJECT COST WAS \$76.7 MILLION.

(E) PRI 125: ACQUISITION OF TWO SUBMARINES WILL BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER 1980, PROVIDED US PROVIDES DEEP WATER ASW DEFENSE AS DISCUSSED DURING THE 8TH SCM. ESTIMATED PROJECT COST WAS \$104.5 MILLION.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, THE ROK IS STUDYING THE FEASIBILITY OF UPGRADING THE M-48 TANK VICE M-60 CO-PRODUCTION, (PRI 115). THE STUDY INCLUDES REPLACEMENT OF M-47'S WITH M-48 CHASIS AND THEN UPGRADING ALL M-48'S TO A-3 (DIESEL) CONFIGURATION. ALSO, WE ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGING THE ROK TO LIMIT THE REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE 6 REAR AREA SECURITY DIVISIONS WITH FULL TO&E AUTHORIZATIONS TO FIREPOWER EQUIPMENT ONLY (PRI 117). THIS WILL REDUCE THE COST BY APPROXIMATELY \$23.5 MILLION. DECISIONS ON BOTH PROJECTS WILL BE REACHED SHORTLY.

4. AS YOU CAN SEE, SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. WHILE COST ESTIMATES OF SOME PROJECTS HAVE BEEN AGREED TO,
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OTHER PROJECTS STILL REMAIN TO BE ADJUSTED. SOME OF THESE ITEMS WILL DEPEND UPON, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE RESPONSE TO ROK REQUESTS FOR PRICE AND AVAILABILITY.

5. FINALLY, THE ROK REMAINS ADAMANT THAT THE FIP BE CONSIDERED A FIVE YEAR PROGRAM, REGARDLESS OF PHASED FUNDING OF SOME PROJECTS WHICH DICTATES PAYMENT AFTER 1980.
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